

Hebrews 6.1-3

The Mandate of Faith

Last week we considered the fact that without repentance from our dead works there was no hope of eternal life. The basic truth of the Bible is that we are utterly ruined. Spiritually dead, incapable of doing anything morally acceptable or pleasing in the sight of God, for remember, even the plowing of the wicked is sin. But accepting that truth is part of a larger act of faith which is really the key issue. We cannot hope to do anything of real spiritual value, cannot hope to relate to God who is Spirit, have any hope of a life worth living, let alone any hope whatsoever of eternal life... we cannot live without faith. We cannot relegate the issues of life to the things that can be handled, tasted, touched and observed. We are made for a relationship of faith with the God who is and everything about us demands that we walk in that truth!

I. FAITH DEFINED -

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

This verse broadly defines faith.

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

This verse demands its primary importance

- a. It is to believe everything that God has revealed to us about Himself
 - i. Not what we have imagined or desired
 - ii. Not what we have formed from our own observations and determinations from the world
 - iii. Not what we have dreamed

- b. It is the revelation of God trusted
 - i. God is the first and last truth. Eternal
 - ii. Submit to Him and trust in Him as the Sovereign Lord
 - iii. He is the just Judge and the sole rewarder of all - No one compels Him, no one constrains Him, He will do as He sees fit in the action of His own judgement.

Amos 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² “Therefore thus will I do to you, O Israel; Because I will do this to you, Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!”

- c. Our failure to believe this was the root of Adam's sin
 - i. "Has God said?"
 - ii. God lies, you won't die
 - iii. He knows that you will become like Him

II. ONE WITH REPENTANCE

Faith cannot be separated from our repentance.

a. follows after we repent which is itself a product of the effective calling of God.

i. He who has no faith towards God does not repent

ii. He who does not repent has no faith toward God

b. Is the primary thing lost in the fall

i. Man was in a trusting relationship with God.

ii. We knew Him and walked with Him in love

iii. We ceased trusting Him and instead trusted our own mind

iv. All other losses stem from this

III. FAITH IN GOD FOR SALVATION

a. God promised and delivered the Savior - it is the first promise of the Scripture

Genesis 3:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

- i. No less than 4000 years passed between its pronouncement and its fulfillment. No other promise has been so sorely tested in our minds than this.
 - ii. It is the foundation of all other promises
 - iii. It is the absolute **MUST BE TRUE** of the Bible. If this is false the whole book is a fable
- b. It is here that the world perishes. When we do not, will not believe God we turn to our own devices for the resolution of our souls.
- i. I am not broken, I am right in all I do
 - ii. I am strong enough to fix it
 - iii. I am capable of changing my own behaviors, mind and passions

- iv. Other gods and powers can fix me and the world with my help
- c. God requires that we believe Him and nothing else for our salvation. For He is the creator of the whole.
- d. We believe that God has fulfilled His Word and thus is true to His revealed nature.

Remember Hebrews 11.6?

We must believe that He IS, and that He is who He says He is, a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

IV. FAITH IN GOD FOR CIRCUMSTANCES

a. Desires -

Proverbs 27:7 (NKJV) ⁷ A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb, But to a hungry soul every bitter thing *is* sweet.

Psalm 107:9 (NKJV) ⁹ For He satisfies the
longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with
goodness.

i. In the fight against sin, there is no greater power than the simple faith of trusting in God that what He has done is best. Resting in Him, knowing that He has given the very surest need of your life and being content with that fact.

ii. Desire is the root of sin

James 1.13-15

iii. Contentment is the anchor of peace –

1Timothy 6.6-10

iv. Contentment is directly connected to faith

Hebrews 13.5-6

b. Needs –

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

c. Health

2Corinthians 12.7-10

d. Purpose –

- i. Our Purpose is to be united with God's purpose for us, for we must have faith that His is better for us in the end.
- ii. Conformity to the image of Christ

Romans 8.28-29

- iii. Created and Called for Good Works designed by God FOR YOU –

Ephesians 2.8-10

- iv. Even those who do evil are doing all things according the purpose of God

Romans 9:17–18 (NKJV) ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, *“For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.”* ¹⁸ Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

This means that no matter what we face in this life, God is STILL on His throne and we do not EVER need to be afraid!! Have faith in God for He is ALWAYS doing all that He intended and is ALWAYS triumphant!